



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

“Ashes and Snow” Debuts in Nomadic Museum

“Ashes and Snow,” an internationally acclaimed exhibition of photographic artworks by Gregory Colbert will be on display in a custom-made Nomadic Museum, a first-of-its-kind temporary structure, alongside Santa Monica Pier through May 14. The exhibition includes over 100 large-scale photographs by Gregory Colbert who has undertaken more than 30 expeditions to locales such as India, Egypt, Burma and Kenya to photograph. “Ashes and Snow” explores the natural interaction between man and other animals. The exhibition premiered in Venice, Italy, moved to New York in 2005 and is making its third stop in California. The 56,000 square-foot Nomadic Museum is composed largely of recyclable and reusable materials, including 152 steel shipping containers and paper tubing. The show supports the Flying Elephants Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes awareness of environmental, social and cultural issues through artistic endeavors. Contact: Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800) 544-5319 or (310) 319-6263, www.santamonica.com.

Hilton Pasadena

The Hilton Pasadena invested \$5 million to transform the 296-room property into an ultramodern hotel with retro flair. Among the changes are high-speed wireless Internet access throughout the hotel; the addition of 528 square-feet of meeting space, elevating the total space to 28,000 square feet; expanded gym; and the redesigned Trevos restaurant. The Hilton Pasadena will undergo another \$3 million dollars in renovation by the end of 2006. All guestrooms and hotel space will receive new carpeting, a new front entrance will be constructed, and the outside of the building will be re-lit and painted, as well as numerous other transformations throughout the year. Contact: Hilton Pasadena, (626) 577-1000, www.hilton.com.

The Reopening of the Majestic Getty Villa

Perched on a hilltop overlooking the Pacific, the Getty Villa in Malibu recently reopened following an extensive renovation. The Villa is dedicated to the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome and Etruria. Three inaugural exhibitions are on display at the J. Paul Getty Museum, just a few miles east of the Villa. These include: “The Getty Villa Reimagined” (through May 8), which looks back on the Villa’s history; “Antiquity & Photography: Early Views of Ancient Mediterranean Sites” (through May 1), which explores the efforts of pioneering photographers to capture and study the ancient world; and “Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity” (through July 24). Contact: The Getty, (310) 440-7300, www.getty.edu.

Six Flags Magic Mountain Unleashes Tatsu

Slated to open April 15, Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia is introducing Tatsu, the world's tallest, fastest and longest flying roller coaster. With the addition of Tatsu, Six Flags Magic Mountain now also has the world's most roller coasters at one park—17. Aboard Tatsu, riders will reach speeds in excess of 62 miles-per hour, through a never-been-done-before completely integrated flight pattern—up, down, over and through—the park's distinct mountainous terrain. Riders are suspended beneath the track in a “horizontal to Earth” flying position and dart in and out of looming trees, blaze over a series of high-speed spirals, banked turns, zero gravity drops and soar over the tops of four inversions while dodging Roaring Rapids, Ninja, Orient Express and crossing an opposing Revolution train high above Valencia Falls. Contact: Six Flags Magic Mountain, (661) 255-4111, www.sixflags.com.

Santa Monica CVB Launches Redesigned Web Site

The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau has re-launched its Web site www.santamonica.com, offering complete travel and tourist information, a refreshing new design, and a database that allows visitors to search for information about Santa Monica's restaurants, hotels, attractions and other businesses in the city. The site also features an interactive map from Map Network developed in conjunction with visitor bureaus in Marina del Rey, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood. Contact: Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800) 544-5319 or (310) 319-6263, info@santamonica.com, www.santamonica.com.

Totems to Turquoise

Running March 31 through August 20, “Totems to Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts of the Northwest and Southwest” celebrates the beauty, power and symbolism of modern Native American jewelry arts. In addition to the jewelry from various tribes, the exhibition also displays a selection of contemporary totem sculptures, historic and contemporary masks, boxes, weavings, figures, pottery, and other artworks, many from the American Museum of Natural History's renowned collections and augmented from the Autry's permanent collections. This exhibit brings together more than 500 objects, all celebrating thousands of years of culture and experience. Contact: Autry National Center, (323) 667-2000, www.autrynationalcenter.org.

Get Lost Adventures

Visitors can get a taste of Los Angeles on the rocks by climbing in a natural outdoor setting or in an indoor climbing gym. Stoney Point in Chatsworth, a vast boulder park in the northwest San Fernando Valley, is a popular spot for locals. It's a featured destination of Get Lost Adventures, a Los Angeles-based outfitter offering guided rock climbing adventures. Get Lost's “Fun at the Rock” program teaches basic climbing skills, while “Rock 1” includes basic skills, anchoring techniques and gear placement. Group outings are available. Contact: Get Lost Adventures, Inc., (909) 744-9675 www.getlostadventures.com.

Long Beach Museum of Art

The Long Beach Museum of Art is displaying a year-long installation of furniture and lighting fixtures designed by Greene & Greene Architects of Pasadena. Among the

premier architects of the early 20th-century Arts & Crafts movement in California, Charles Sumner Greene (1868–1957) and his brother Henry Mather Greene (1870–1954) designed architecturally distinct homes for two prominent Long Beach women, Jennie A. Reeve and Adelaide Tichenor. “Greene & Greene in Long Beach: Furniture for the Homes of Jennie A. Reeve and Adelaide Tichenor” runs through October 2006 and features 12 significant decorative arts objects designed by the Greenes for use in these homes, plus two additional works with seascape subject. The works are on long-term loan to the museum from the Guardian Trust and the Greene & Greene-Reeve House Trust. Contact: Long Beach Museum of Art, (562) 439-2119, www.lbma.org.

Nana’s Garden

At Nana’s Garden in West Los Angeles, parents can get a massage, facial or other spa treatment while the kids have fun with arts and crafts, an indoor playpen, and even tarot card readings. Nana’s Garden, a day spa and day-care center owned by actress Connie Stevens and her daughters, Joely and Tricia Fisher, is Los Angeles’s newest respite for busy families. While the spa typically caters to locals, including celebrities, for a monthly membership fee, it welcomes visitors on a per-treatment basis, plus \$10 to \$15 per day per child (depending on whether the parent is getting a treatment) for day care. Nana’s Garden also features a boutique, and a café with a kid’s menu. Contact: Nana’s Garden, (310) 288-3024, info@nanasgarden.net, www.nanasgarden.com.

Norton Simon Museum

Within the Hindu pantheon, all goddesses—among them Durga, Parvati, Uma and Kali—are considered to be forms of the “Great Goddesses,” regarded by her devotees as the source of all existence and the supreme deity. The fascinating exhibition, “Durga: Avenging Goddess, Nurturing Mother,” is on display through March 27. It explores the many incarnations of the great goddess and the ways she is depicted throughout South and Southeast Asia. Approximately 72 objects from India, Tibet, Nepal and Southeast Asia illustrate the dual nature of the goddess, as both fierce and fearless warrior and a loving and protective mother. Contact: Norton Simon Museum, (626) 449-6840, www.nortonsimon.org.

ParkLINK Shuttle

A new weekend ParkLINK Shuttle offers transportation through the Santa Monica Mountains, making it easier for residents and visitors to access parks, trailheads and beaches. For \$1 per person per ride (free for children under age 5), the shuttle stops at several locations in the mountains and along the Malibu coastline. The bus loop includes stops at Malibu Creek State Park in Calabasas, and Paramount Ranch and Peter Strauss Ranch in the Agoura area. The buses stop approximately every half hour from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the summer and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the fall, winter and spring. They are wheelchair accessible and can accommodate bikes, backpacks and other gear. Parking is available at any of the parking lots along the route. Free parking is available at all National Park Service sites. Contact: National Parks Service, (888) 734-2323 or (805) 370-2301, www.nps.gov/samo/shuttle.

The Ritz-Carlton, Huntington Hotel & Spa

The AAA Five-Diamond Ritz Carlton, Huntington Hotel & Spa recently completed a \$19 million renovation, which included all 292 guestrooms in the main building with new furniture, linens, flat-screen televisions, carpet and window coverings, as well as the opening of a new wine and martini bar in the Lobby Lounge, a redesign of The Courtyard and updates to all 33,000 square feet of meeting and historic ballroom space. Contact: The Ritz-Carlton, Huntington Hotel & Spa, (626) 568-3900, www.ritzcarlton.com.

Santa Monica Visitor Information Center

Visitors to Santa Monica will find all they need to know about this seaside town in the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau's new walk-in information center. Located on the corner of Main and Bay, visitors can pick up one of their many publications and take advantage of the Internet stations, interactive displays and travel counselors. The new walk-in center also has a new line of retail products and souvenirs available for sale, as well as Big Blue Bus fare cards and tickets to area attractions. Contact: Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800) 544-5319 or (310) 319-6263, info@santamonica.com, www.santamonica.com.

Walt Disney Concert Hall

The Music Center of Los Angeles is offering new architecture tours of the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Lunch-time guided tours are 30 minutes, while matinee-day guided tours are approximately one hour. Both programs offer an informative tour through much of the interior and exterior spaces of the building. The cost is \$10 per person (30-minute tour) and \$15 per person for the matinee-day tour. Schedules are listed on the Music Center's Web site at www.musiccenter.org. Contact: The Music Center of Los Angeles County, (213) 972-4399, www.musiccenter.org.

The Westin Pasadena

The four-diamond, 350-room Westin Pasadena's \$11 million renovation redefines modern luxury. All public spaces have been updated, the sundry shop redesigned, a business center introduced, and Ventanas Restaurant & Bar revamped. The total amount of meeting space increased to 26,000 square feet with the addition of a new 2,200 square-foot meeting room. All guestrooms were completely refurbished. Contact: The Westin Pasadena, (626) 792-2727, www.starwoodhotels.com/westin.